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The Training

OF THE

Sabbath-School Teacher

Union Theological Seminary
RICHMOND, VA.

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WHAT IS IT?

The Church of to-day has awakened to the necessity of teaching Sabbath School teachers fuller knowledge and training them for greater efficiency. The work involves at least four elements, namely the Bible, the Pupil, the Teacher and the Sunday School. We must know God's revelation in the Bible and in the pupil. The teacher is God's agent in teaching the Bible to the child. The Sunday School is the instrument by which this vital work is to be done. The teacher must have an accurate working knowledge of the Bible; must know the fundamental facts concerning the nature of children, youth and adults—must know the chief laws and the best methods of teaching; and must understand what may be properly demanded from a modern Sunday School.

The Bible,
The Pupil,
The Teacher,
The School.

The Westminster Standard Courses. The Westminster Standard Teacher Training Courses will consist of The Standard First Course of eighty-three lesson periods covering two years' study, and not to be completed in less than one year, and The Standard Advanced Course of not less than one hundred lesson periods, covering three years' study, and not to be completed in less than two years.

Standard First Course. The Westminster Standard First Course covers two years' study, as follows: First Year: The Bible, fifteen lessons; the Pupil, eight lessons; the Teacher, nine lessons; and the Sunday School, nine lessons. Second Year: The Books of the New Testament, seven lessons; Church History, six lessons; Christian Doctrine, nine lessons; Personal Work, four lessons; the Presbyterian Church, ten lessons; the Church at Work in the Sunday School, six lessons. This course will be treated in two volumes, to be sold at 25 cents each.

Standard Advanced Course. The Westminster Standard Advanced Course will cover not less than one hundred lesson periods, with a minimum of forty lesson periods devoted to the study of the Bible, and not less than ten lesson periods each to the study of the Pupil, the Teacher, the

Sunday School, Church History, Missions, or kindred themes. Three years' time will be devoted to this course, and in no case will a diploma be granted for its completion in less than two years.

Manual for Leaders. Accompanying each volume will be a Manual for Leaders, which will contain suggestions as to how the work may best be done.

THE NEED.

The Teacher. The vast multitude of Sunday School teachers all over the world is conscious of its own need of training. They realize that while piety and devotion are elements of fitness, they must be joined to efficiency in order to bring the best results. As an expression of this conviction, thirty-one associations reported in 1905, 1,370 classes, with a membership of 21,888 and 952 individual students. The teachers need the training and they are resolved to have it.

The Pupil. The 16,000,000 Sunday School pupils in America are entitled to the best religious training that can be had. Vast multitudes of them depend chiefly on the Sunday School for their religious nurture. They are getting better and better teaching in their day-schools. When they turn to the Church of God for light, they must be served with the greatest possible efficiency. The pupils are

entitled to the best teaching and they must have it.

The School. The modern Sunday School has come to be an institution of such size, dignity and power that it cannot afford to have any part of its work done carelessly. The chief work in the school is the teaching. Of what consequence are the size, the music, the organization, the social warmth, the good fellowship of a school, if its teaching be done with little skill. The school demands the best teaching and it must have it.

Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus is pleased to accept and reward the least service done in His name, whether it be done skilfully or awkwardly. Yet He took great pains during three years to train twelve men to be his witnesses after he had left the earth. His message through Paul is "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth." 2 Tim. ii. 15. Our Lord expects us to do the best teaching and He shall not be disappointed.

THE OPPORTUNITY.

Church Officers. The present condition offers opportunities never known before. How can Church officers fail to see that teacher, pupil, school and the Lord Jesus Himself are combined

to make an urgent demand for better teaching? What higher service can they render than to create in the Sunday School the distinct and imperative demand that the teachers shall be trained?

Pastor. Says President Mullins: "The chief teacher of the teachers and trainer of the trainers of the Sunday School is the pastor." What more fruitful field of labor, what more delightful experience can a pastor desire than to train his teachers? The time is exceedingly favorable. This is the day of God's power and the teachers are willing.

Superintendent. After all has been said, it will probably depend on the superintendent to take the initiative in this work and to plan for its successful maintenance. There is absolutely nothing, except prayer, that he can do that will bring larger, swifter and more enduring results to his school than the introduction of Teacher-Training, and there is no time like the present.

THE METHOD.

Private Study. There are thousands of teachers in America who, impelled by their love of improvement, have been studying various courses in private and have triumphed over many difficulties. Any eager teacher can pursue this course if no class is within reach.

Teachers' Meeting. The teachers' meeting in the local Sunday School may be used to great advantage for definite and continuous training. The weekly program should always provide for methods of teaching the lesson, and for careful review of the life and work of the school.

Institutes. Attendance upon Sunday School institutes is a valuable means of training. Here new and tested plans for doing all sorts of work in connection with the school are presented by men and women of experience. Opportunities are given for questions and personal interviews. The road to highest success surely leads by way of the institute.

Training Class. By far the most effective method of training is the Teacher Training Class held in connection with the local Sunday School. This method is discussed in detail below.

THE TEACHER TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

The Superintendent. Every Sunday School should have some one to look after the training of teachers. This officer should be called the superintendent of Teacher Training, and should be elected and installed like other officers of the school.

It should be his duty to organize and maintain at least one Teacher Training Class in the school.

Leader. The success of the class will depend greatly on the character and efficiency of its leader. In many cases the proper person to do this most vital work is the pastor. The leader should be known for devotion to Jesus Christ, for ability to teach and for mastery of the course in all details. In case a leader cannot be found, the class should meet and take turns in leading the study.

Starting a Class. A study of the Church membership should be made in order to find out who would probably make good teachers, the best material for this purpose being found amongst the young people. The class should number from ten to fifteen persons in order to insure individual drill. Each member of the class should sign the following:

Promise.

"Earnestly desiring to know God's Word better, and to become more skilfull in teaching it, I promise to join a class to study and complete **The Westminster Teacher Training Course** as soon as my superintendent organizes one; to buy a text book; to prepare the lesson carefully, and to attend class promptly and regularly."

As soon as the class roll is made up, the

names and addresses of the leader and of every member should be sent to the General Superintendent of Sabbath Schools, P. O. Box No. 883, Richmond, Virginia, where they are carefully filed.

When Meet. The best time to meet is at the same hour with the school. The class should take part in either the opening or closing exercises, but should devote the rest of the time to the regular class work. In special cases the class may with profit meet at another hour, chosen to suit the necessities of a majority of its members.

Where Meet. It is best to meet at the church, and if possible, a separate room should be provided for this class. The class should not be interrupted and its members should not be taken to supply the places of absent teachers.

Examinations. Written examinations may be had upon the completion of each section of each course, or upon the whole of each course at once, as may be preferred. Examination questions are made out by the General Superintendent, to whom all papers are referred for grading. An average grade of 70 is required before certificate or diploma will be given.

Certificates and Diplomas. Those who successfully pass a written examination on either course will be given a certificate, and a

diploma for all three courses. This diploma will be recognized by the International Sunday School Association, and if so desired, the pupil may have its seal attached upon application to the proper State officer.

Public Recognition. Certificates should be awarded in the presence of the whole school at a set time, when a brief address should be made. Diplomas should be awarded at a regular church service, when the pastor or superintendent should briefly explain what they stand for.

Supplemental Reading. A small library of a dozen carefully chosen books, bearing on Sunday School work, will be offered at the lowest possible cost for those who have taken diplomas, and wish to pursue their studies further.

Alumni Association. To promote good fellowship and to incite to further study, those who hold diplomas will be enrolled in a **Sunday School Alumni Association.**

Election. After the completion of the whole course, a worker may become a teacher. All teachers should be formally elected by the Session of the Church, or other proper officers.

Installation. After being trained and elected, teachers should be installed into office at a public service of the Church by the pastor and

session, or officers. Proper care should be taken to have this service dignified, attractive and spiritually impressive.

TEACHERS' READING COURSE.

The following twelve volumes make the Library of Supplemental Reading for Teachers:

	Post-paid.
Yale Lectures on Teaching, Trumbull..	$1.65
The Organized Sunday School, Axtell..	.50
Practical Primary Plans, Black.....	1.00
How to Conduct a Sunday School, Lawrance, ...	1.25
Missions in the Sunday School, Hixson	.50
The Home Department To-day, Stebbins, ...	.25
The Teacher and the Child, Mark.....	.75
The Unfolding Life, Lamoreaux,.....	.75
Manual of Bible History, Blackie,.....	1.25
Bible Study by Books, Sell, Paper, 35c.; cloth,	.60
The Creed of Presbyterians, Smith, Paper, 25c.; cloth,	.45
Individual Work for Individuals, Trumbull, ...Paper, 35c.; cloth,	.75

The twelve volumes all in cloth binding can be furnished for $8.25; express extra.

For further information, write to

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